

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 /085 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 076032

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, ML UV

SUBJECT:MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE: LOME MEDIATION

-- COMMISSION

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 590

PARIS FOR MELONE

1. WE WOULD LIKE TO BRING UP TO DATE THE LIMITED INFORMATION
WE HAVE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LOME QUADRAPARTITE
MEDIATION COMMISSION IN ITS EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL
SETTLEMENT OF THE MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE. REAL-
IZING THAT SUCH A COMMISSION NORMALLY WOULD CONDUCT MOST
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OF ITS BUSINESS BEHIND THE SCENES, WE WONDER NEVERTHELESS

IF THE ABSENCE OF EVIDENCE OF PROGRESS BY THE COMMISSION CONFIRMS THE PESSIMISTIC VIEW OF THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR IN OUAGADOUGOU (REFTEL) THAT THE COMMISSION IS NOT DOING WELL.

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2. FYI: EVEN THOUGH THE POLICY ISSUE POSED BY GOUV'S REQUEST TO US FOR PERMISSION TO PURCHASE ARMS IN THE US HAS BEEN RESOLVED, WE STILL HAVE A SERIOUS INTEREST IN THE EVOLUTION OF THIS DISPUTE AND THE ACCOMPANYING MEDIATION EFFORT. EMBASSY OUAGA'S ASSESSMENT IS THAT THE VOLTANS ARE ACTIVELY PREPARING FOR AN OFFENSIVE AND WILL PROBABLY ATTEMPT TO RECONQUER THEIR LOST TERRITORY WITHIN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS, I.E., BEFORE THE RAINY SEASON. WE FEAR THAT

ANOTHER ROUND OF HOSTILITIES COULD SERIOUSLY COMPLICATE OUR AND OTHER DONOR NATION EFFORTS TO ASSIST VICTIMS OF THE DROUGHT IN THE SAHEL. HOSTILITIES WOULD INTERRUPT THE DISTRIBUTION OF GRAIN IN THE CRITICAL PRE-HARVEST PERIOD AND COULD CAUSE WIDESPREAD SUFFERING. WE ARE ALSO CONCERNED BY THE WITHDRAWAL OF VOLTAN MILITARY PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT WHICH HAD BEEN PARTICIPATING IN THE FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM. IF FIGHTING RESUMES, WE WOULD EXPECT THIS SITUATION TO BE EXACERBATED, BOTH IN UPPER VOLTA AND MALI. LASTLY, A RESUMPTION OF HOSTILITIES COULD HAVE A VERY UNWELCOME EFFECT ON OUR EFFORT TO SUSTAIN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE DROUGHT RELIEF EFFORT. END FYI.

3. ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE THEREFORE REQUESTED TO APPROACH HOST GOVERNMENTS AT MOST SENIOR LEVEL THEY CONSIDER APPROPRIATE AND SOLICIT THE VIEWS OF THE COMMISSION MEMBERS WITH RESPECT TO THE STATUS OF THE MEDIATION EFFORT. SHOULD IT APPEAR APPROPRIATE, YOU MAY MENTION THAT US HAS TRIED TO ASSIST MEDIATION COMMISSION'S EFFORTS BY MAINTAINING EMBARGO ON ARMS DELIVERIES TO BELLIGERENTS. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE OUR HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR WELFARE OF PEOPLE LIKELY TO SUFFER SHOULD HOSTILITIES AGAIN OCCUR AND US HOPES FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. INGERSOLL

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